

Newsletter

Parish newsletter

September 2011

This month, amongst other things we're talking about new waste and recycling services, residents surveys, Operational Flood Working Group (OFWG) updates and the Wiltshire Work Grant.

Sign up to receive your new garden waste bin in 2012

Residents in the south, east and north of the county who wish to take advantage of the new non-chargeable fortnightly collection of garden waste, should sign up by **30 September 2011** to start receiving the service in spring 2012.

Residents can sign up online by visiting www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin or by phoning the council on 0300 456 0102.

Please remember that those residents who currently have a garden waste bin do not need to sign up for the new garden waste service.



New waste and recycling service communications

From November 2011, all residents in Wiltshire will have the same recycling opportunities. This improved recycling collection service will mean all residents throughout Wiltshire will soon be able to recycle a wide range of materials at the kerbside, including: plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, glass, cans, aerosols, clothes, foil and garden waste.

The council is carrying out a **comprehensive communications campaign** in order to support the new waste and recycling collection service, which aims to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and encourage Wiltshire residents to recycle as much as possible.

Part of this campaign includes the council starting to issue bin hangers to residents who present additional waste next to their bin for collection. This element of the campaign starts from September 2011, and aims to offer residents help and advice on how to get the most from their kerbside recycling services. As most of your waste can now be recycled, your household wheelie bin should be big enough for your remaining waste, with your bin lid closed.

For further help and advice about the changes to the waste and recycling



collection service, please contact the council on 0300 456 0102 or visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

Waste collection dates and bin delivery

West Wiltshire

Letters will be going out in September to households in west Wiltshire giving advanced notice of changes to household and garden waste collection arrangements that will take place in November 2011. The changes mean that the **collection day and/or week will change for residents in west Wiltshire**. These changes will coincide with the introduction of the new plastic bottle and cardboard kerbside collection.

Plastic and cardboard bin delivery

Key dates for plastic and cardboard bin delivery are set out in the table below. New collection calendars will be sent to every household before the changes are introduced.

| Area | Leaflet delivery | Start of bin delivery | End of bin delivery | Start of collections |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| North | 5 September | 5 September | 30 September | 10 October |
| West | 28 September | 3 October | 28 October | 7 November |
| East | 26 October | 31 October | 18 November | 28 November |

Waste management contract annual review

The council's waste management and recycling contractor, Hills Waste Solutions Ltd., is required to produce an Annual Service Review (ASR) of the waste management services provided for the council, with particular reference to waste tonnages, Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and local bring sites (mini recycling sites), recycling and composting performance, complaints and comments from the public and action taken to advise the public about services.

- [Waste management contract annual service review for 2010/11](#)

Any comments about the annual service review document, or any aspect of the waste services delivered by Hills, can be sent to wastemanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk

One million tonnes recycling milestone reached

Figures just released show that a million tonnes of household waste has been diverted from landfill. To mark the milestone there is a competition for young people .

The competition is open to school children in years 1-11 who attend a school located within the geographic region served by Wiltshire Council. Entrants can pick any of the many items people can recycle in their kerbside black box or at household recycling centres (HRCs) as a theme. They can find details on these items at www.recycleforwiltshire.com



Full details and rules on the competition can be found at www.recycleforwiltshire.com, on Facebook (Hills Group), via email competition@hills-group.co.uk or by telephoning 01672 518941.

A 100 bags of Hills compost will also be given away to residents at each HRC on Saturday 20 August from 9.00am (one bag per vehicle on a first come, first served basis)

The Wiltshire Work Grant, burial photographic project

Wiltshire Council working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus has launched an exciting programme, called Wiltshire Work Grant, which enables employers to create additional jobs.



The programme offers:

- Paid employment for a minimum of 30 hours per week
- The opportunity to learn whilst on the job
- Work preparation assistance
- In work support
- A real opportunity leading to increased employability

Thomas Ash and Simon Brewer have joined the Technical Section for 13 weeks to undertake an interesting and varied project for the Burials Team. This will improve their employability prospects by giving current employment with meaningful results to detail on their CV and experience of working for a local authority.

Thomas and Simon are working at Melksham Cemetery photographing memorials and headstones and recording inscriptions where they are legible. The photograph and inscription are linked to the grave or plot number as an individual record. This is cross referenced to the cemetery maps, a valuable exercise in itself, highlighting any discrepancies where maps have been changed or altered over the years.

Cllr Dick Tonge had this to say:

“Wiltshire Council whole heartedly support this initiative to get the long term un-employed back into employment. This project opens up the potential for family genealogists worldwide to access burial information and documents from the Councils burial records including the actual photograph and inscription of the headstone or memorial.”

In the future, on line searchers worldwide could access burial information and documents from the Councils burial records including the actual photograph and inscription of the headstone or memorial.

New walking groups launched

Walking is a great way to get active so why not join one of the 10 free community walking groups set up by Wiltshire Council. Three new groups will be set up in Cricklade, Pewsey and Amesbury this month (September). Walking groups already meet in Melksham, Wootton Bassett, Chippenham, Warminster, Corsham, Calne and Westbury.

All ten groups will meet every week at 9.30am and are led by trained walk leaders. The walks last for about one hour and afterwards there is the chance to socialise and have refreshments in a local cafe. Everyone is welcome to join, providing you are independently mobile and are able to meet the physical demands of the walk. For more information go to



www.wiltshire.gov.uk/freewalkinggroups or contact Tracey Morris on 01380 734890 or tracey.morris@wiltshire.gov.uk

Rural housing needs survey

We received a very positive response from parish councils to our previous article on the programme of rural housing needs surveys. Many parish councils have shown a keen interest in arranging for a survey to be carried out for their parish. It is important that we work closely with you when organising this programme. We would therefore like to thank everyone who has shown an interest so far.

Due to the high number of parishes in Wiltshire the programme will run over five years and we will aim to carry out four surveys a months. This may mean that your parish will have to wait a little while for a survey to be carried out. However, this does not mean that we have forgotten you.

The first pilot survey has already been completed for East Knoyle parish and we are currently in the process of reporting back to the parish council on the results of the survey.

The next surveys are to be carried out in September for: Steeple Langford, Limpley Stoke, Hullavington and Bromham.

The surveys will provide you with information on housing need in your parish. The information provided could also be used to inform your parish plan and to help you to plan to maintain the sustainability of your local community.

Why do we need this information?

The surveys will provide us with up to date information on the housing situation of local residents, their aspirations and needs. We will use the information to inform both our housing and planning policies and to identify local needs for affordable housing. The surveys will also help us to understand the size, type and tenure of accommodation that is required locally.

This is the data that allows us to:

- Identify the relative needs and different priorities of local communities
- Identify the number and type of accommodation that is required by local residents
- Justify the development of a rural exception site when a need has been identified
- Obtain the views of local residents on local housing issues
- Measure affordability at local level.

Why do we need to ask about your financial circumstances?

This will help us to measure the financial status of households relative to the housing market. In other words it will help us to find out how affordable local housing is for local residents. All the information received will be treated in strictest confidence and will only be used to identify local housing need.

If you would like any further information about the rural housing needs surveys please contact Claire Pullan at the Housing Strategy Team, tel: 01249 706614, email: claire.pullan@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Can you help by hosting our survey on your website?

Wiltshire Council and its partners the police and Primary Care Trust will be carrying out a large scale residents' survey this autumn to capture thoughts around quality of life in Wiltshire. The survey which is currently being drafted will go out to the public between the end of October and late November.

The survey will be sent to over 20,000 Wiltshire residents by post and via email. The survey will also be featured through the councils websites and will be available in hard copy from libraries, leisure centres and council offices. The police and Primary Care Trust have also indicated that they are willing to feature the survey prominently on their websites with a link to an online version. We would like to encouraging people to complete the survey online as it saves substantially on cost and all postal surveys will also encourage on line completion as an alternative.

To increase awareness and to help encourage as many people as possible to complete this survey it would be helpful if as many town and parish councils could promote the survey on their websites too.

Wiltshire Council's research team will provide all suitable background text and the direct link to the online survey. The research team will also analyse responses by community area which they will make available so that meaningful local opinions can be fed into local plans and processes. The topics included in the survey will include such things as:

- community safety
- spending priorities
- what needs improving
- street scene
- satisfaction with services
- ideas around health issues like smoking and drinking

This survey is vital to help plan services and the more people who say "what matters to them" the better chance we have of targeting our scarce resources where they are needed most.

If you are able to help promote and host this survey on your website please contact Phil Morgan, Research Manager, Wiltshire Council on 01225 713186 or philip.morgan@wiltshire.gov.uk

Chippenham Town Council annual report

[Chippenham Town Council's annual report](#) is now available online. If you were prefer a hard copy, please contact the council at:

Town Hall
High Street
Chippenham
SN15 3ER

Tel: 01249 446699



**Chippenham
town council**
*Improving the Quality
of Town Life*

email: info@chippenham.gov.uk

New inflatable at Durrington swimming pool



Based on the traditional armed forces obstacle courses, this unit is designed to test the best of the best in aquatic challenges.

Begin by conquering the up and over beams without getting slowed down too much by the tight twists. Hop the wall and gather speed before having to slow down your adrenaline rush to carefully scale the wall. Turn on another quick pace and navigate the two hanging boulders. Can you get under without losing balance, or do you have to go around without slipping? If you've made it this far, limbo your body under the

cargo net while finding the strength and grip to climb final wall. Congratulations, you can slide home. This game is perfect for all ages. The commando run is easier for the younger kids to complete by carefully balancing space and challenge.

For the older kids, their weight and competitive nature will provide as much resistance to their success as it will to their chance of survival!

Rights of way updates

Public rights of way mapping on Wiltshire Council website

Rights of way mapping is available on the Wiltshire Council website and has recently been improved to make it easier to use:

- users can now enter the name of the village or town that they are interested in, the map will then move to that area
- as not everyone likes maps, the rights of way can be viewed on an aerial photography base instead of a map

Help to keep your local field paths open

Fields are now being ploughed for next year's crops. Please could parish and town councils remind landowners of the statutory duties that farmers have to keep rights of way which pass through fields free of obstructions. Routes need to be reinstated within 14 days of the first disturbance for sowing a new crop, and 24 hours of any further disturbances. Making sure that paths are visible on the ground and in good order makes life easier for everyone.



Sometimes the width of a path is set out in the definitive statement. This accompanies the definitive map, which is the legal record of rights of way and is held by Wiltshire Council. A route must be reinstated to at least the width in the statement.

If a specific width is not mentioned, the minimum widths as set on in law are:

- For a cross-field footpath, one metre
- For a cross-field bridleway, two metres
- For a field-edge bridleway, three metres
- For a field-edge or crossfield restricted byway or byway open to all traffic, three metres

Overhanging crops must not encroach on these widths. Overhanging is taken by Wiltshire Council to mean any crop that has reached a height of eight inches (approximately 20 centimetres) or more.

If landowners, farmers or town and parish councils have any queries about this please contact us at: rightsofway@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Broad Chalke - A safe route for walkers re-opened

Following a recent decision by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in support of an Order made by Wiltshire Council, residents of the village of Broad Chalke will now be able to re-use a short path avoiding a blind corner.

Through their parish council villagers submitted evidence to Wiltshire Council that they had walked the path between High Lane and Chapel Lane since at least the time of the Second World War. The path links houses with the village facilities and is a natural choice for people wishing to avoid a narrow road and acute bend; it is even known locally as "The Cut". Both Wiltshire Council and the Secretary of State's inspector agreed that this use had been sufficiently extensive and open that public rights had been acquired and The Cut has now been added to the definitive map and statement as a public footpath.

Keevil and Seend - An ancient highway confirmed

A short route linking the A361 near the old toll house in Keevil with a local road in Seend has been added to the definitive map and statement as a restricted byway – that is, a route that may be used by the public on foot, by cycle, on or leading a horse or in a horse drawn cart or carriage.

This route has not been available to these users for many years but when a local resident unearthed some old map evidence that showed the route as once being available Wiltshire Bridleways Association responded by applying to Wiltshire Council for an order to add it to the definitive map and statement.

Officers discovered further evidence, some dating back to 1674 which showed that the way had once been maintained by the inhabitants of the parish and an order was made in 2008. An objection was made which challenged the interpretation of the evidence and in the spring of 2011 a public inquiry was held over 4 days to enable an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the evidence.

The inspector agreed with the council's interpretation of the evidence and has confirmed the order. The benefits of this route being open once again to the public will be immediately felt by local horse riders, cyclists and carriage drivers who may now access the rights of way network on either side of the busy A361 without riding along it.

Durrington – Martin Bushes Road

Martin Bushes Road is an ancient highway in the parish of Durrington. The route crosses the Ministry of Defence's training area and has for a long time been used by the public and local people alike. The Ministry of Defence maintains the surface of this route to a good standard and has agreed to continue with this maintenance and to dedicate the route to the public to use with vehicles as well as on foot, by cycle and on horseback. An order will soon be made which will show Martin Bushes Road as a byway open to all traffic in the definitive map and statement.

Work is ongoing with the Ministry of Defence to improve public access to the other parts of Salisbury Plain training area. Work on clear signage and the upgrading of routes should ensure that the public have greater confidence in accessing this unique area.

Wilts & Berks canal restoration – celebrating progress so far

Courtesy of the hospitality of Lord Lansdowne, President of the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership, the progress made so far to restore the Wilts & Berks Canal was celebrated at Bowood House on Friday 15 July. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, is Patron of the canal trust and was present.

Wiltshire Council co-ordinates the work of Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership and the Countryside team to help to enable local communities and volunteers to restore the waterway as a recreational asset and wildlife habitat. The recently re-opened section of canal at Pewsham and design work on the Melksham Link between the Kennet and Avon Canal and Melksham are the latest projects in the programme to fully restore the Wilts & Berks Canal by 2025. There are now a number of sections which can be walked by the public. For further information and photos of progress so far see: <http://www.wbct.org.uk/>

Fitness and leisure events

Back on your bike - 6 week course - £12

- Starting 9 September - Holy Trinity Primary School, Calne

Want to begin cycling or return to cycling after a number of years? This confidence building, social course will teach you everything you need to get you on your bike.

Nordic walking – 4 week course - £24

- Starting 19 September – Melksham Park
- Starting 20 September – Westbury Park

Nordic walking is an enhancement of ordinary walking but twice as effective! Using poles enables 90% of your muscles to be used and although you work harder it feels easier because of the support and propulsion you get from the poles.

Push and tone - £2 per session

- 16 September – 18 November – Cricklade Children's Centre

Bring baby in the buggy and join this ten week course of social sessions that will help you lose weight, tone your shape and improve your posture. Followed by a healthy snack.

For more information and to book your place, please contact:



Tracey Morris, Tel 01380 734890 or email tracey.morris@wiltshire.gov.uk

Operation Flood Working Group (OFWG) updates

Property level protection grant funding

The Operational Flood Working Groups (OFWG) are pleased to announce that they have been successful in applying for individual property resilience grant funding on behalf of Easterton and Crudwell parish councils



The money will enable properties identified as most at risk to have surveys undertaken which will identify the best way to make them flood resilient, all surveys are done with the homeowners agreement, the survey will establish the suitability of products such as flood gates or airbrick covers.

We will be working closely with the Environment Agency and the parish councils on these two schemes which can only benefit those communities who have experienced flooding.

October flood warden Seminar

Planning for the annual flood warden seminar is well underway. As with previous years we are planning on a mixture of presentations and practical sessions. The seminar will take place in the middle of October. We are waiting to confirm a venue and speakers, exact details will be sent out in September.

NickPReid@environment-agency.gov.uk or renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Gel sacs

Flood sac's are available for parish councils to purchase either for themselves or on behalf of parishioners at cost price. If you are interested contact sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire's preliminary flood risk assessment

Wiltshire submitted its preliminary flood risk assessment to the Environment Agency on time. Wiltshire Council as the lead local flood has to identify community areas in excess of 30,000 residents that are at risk of flooding. There are no community areas within Wiltshire which meet this criteria, our closest neighbour that does is Bristol.

OFWG meetings

The meetings are going from strength to strength with regular attendance from stakeholders and parish councils, the meetings provide a forum for discussion to resolve issues and exchange ideas. The group has recently worked with Hankerton and Kington Langley parish councils on flood relief schemes and is currently working with the Environment Agency and Marlborough Town Council on investigating flood defences within the town.



Waiting restrictions

In order to manage the requests for waiting restrictions, a new process has been developed which engages the parish and town councils and enables them to input their valuable local knowledge into the assessment process.

A [waiting restriction report](#) has now been approved by the cabinet member for highways and transport, outlining the process.

The process enables a more structured assessment of all requests for new, or changes to existing waiting and parking restrictions, by defining a priority assessment matrix to ensure that the limited resources of the council are directed to deal with the demands which are supported by town and parish councils, and that requests are prioritised to ensure that resources are appropriately allocated.

Full details of the process and assessment matrix are shown in the report which includes [waiting restrictions guidance notes](#) for towns and parishes, in brief this involves:

- All requests from residents and others for waiting and parking restrictions to be sent directly to the town and parish councils.
- Towns and parish councils send out a [standard waiting restrictions request form](#) to the applicant to gain as much detail as possible.
- Completed forms to be returned by applicant to town and parish council.
- Town and parish council to complete the [waiting restrictions assessment form](#) giving validation to the request and rank in order of priority and send to the network management team in January when requested..
- The top ranking requests for all areas will then be assessed against the full [TRO assessment matrix](#) by the engineers in the network management team and scores reported to the cabinet member for agreement on which schemes to progress each year.

In order for the town and parish councils to give appropriate consideration to all local requests, the outstanding requests held on file will be sent to the clerks during the next couple of weeks.

As this is a new process, we understand that some town and parish councils may well require some initial support, officers from the network management team will be more than happy to explain the process further or assist in any way necessary. Please contact Alister Storey in the first instance at alister.storey@wiltshire.gov.uk or on 01225 713495.

Councillor development programme

Wiltshire Council runs a number of courses specifically aimed at councillors as part of its councillor development programme. Some examples of the topics covered are chairmanship skills, dealing with challenging behaviour at meetings and active listening. More details on future events can be found on the [councillor development event](#) page on the Wiltshire Council website.

If any town or parish councillors or clerks are interested in attending events they can book a place by emailing councillordevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk or calling Rita Sanders on 01225 718 375. Please note that priority for places will be given to unitary councillors and that a fee may be charged to cover the cost of the trainer and training materials (details for each event can be found on the [councillor development event](#) page).

If any town or parish have any particular training needs that they would like to discuss please contact:

- Marie Todd: 01225 718 036, marie.todd@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Lynda Williams: 01225 713 179, Lynda.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council website – useful features

Subscribe to committee meeting updates

You can now subscribe, via the Wiltshire Council website, to receive email alerts telling you when meeting papers for committees you are interested in are published on the council's website.

To use the subscription service, simply go to the [agendas, minutes and reports](#) page and '[subscribe to updates](#)' to register.

Town and parish council information area

The town and parish council area of our website has been expanded to provide more information for the public on local councils and to provide a number of useful links for town and parish councils. These include guidance and forms from Wiltshire Council, and links to the National and Wiltshire Association of Local Councils websites, and a link to the [parish newsletter](#).

You can find the [town and parish information](#) area via the [council and democracy](#) section of the website.

Support your local market



Why not visit and support your local market for anything from fresh fruit and vegetable, cheese, fish or even some new shoes. You can also support your local market by printing this [Wiltshire markets poster](#) and displaying in your notice boards.

Fredericks Wiltshire: Business loan fund

Fredericks
foundation



Wiltshire Council is working with the Fredericks Foundation and GWE Business West Ltd to deliver loans to viable small or micro businesses denied access to credit through the banking system.

For more information contact:

Terri Stevenson or Tim King on 01793 698023 or email terri@fredericksfoundation.net or tim@fredericksfoundation.net.

Quick links

- [Area Board information](#)
- [All the latest news releases](#)
- [Recycle for Wiltshire](#)
- [Roadworks](#)
- [What's on in Wiltshire](#)
- [What's on at City Hall, Salisbury](#)

This newsletter is produced by the corporate communications team at Wiltshire Council. For more information, please email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone 01225 713663.

The submission deadline for the October parish newsletter is **30 September 2011**.

Newsletter back issues: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parishnewsletterhome>